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May 19, 2000

Janet Henney, M.D., Commissioner, FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I was shocked to learn that Procter and Gamble and Frito-Lay are pressuring the FDA to eliminate the label notice on foods containing olestra. Instead of elimination, I think the notice on the packages should be much larger and contain much stronger language. In fact, I think an additive which can possibly cause such a severe reaction in a perfectly healthy individual such as myself should be completely taken off the market.

I had a terrible experience after eating about one-fourth of a bag of Wow potato chips a little over a year ago. My reaction included such terrible gas, diarrhea and abdominal pains that I could not leave my apartment for almost 12 hours. Luckily at the time I was working at home or I would have had to taken a sick day from work. Needless to say, I didn't get much work done that day anyway. After the original symptoms subsided somewhat, I felt weak and didn't have much of an appetite at least for another 24 hours.

I had read about olestra years ago and knew a little bit about the chemistry and the possible side effects, but never figured that eating just a serving of the Wow chips would have such a horrible effect on me or that it would last so long. To be honest with you, I don't even remember seeing any type of warning notice on the bag.

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I would never touch another Wow potato chip or any product which contained olestra ever again in my life. In fact, I regret that I ever put that nasty additive to my lips in the first place.

Please do not allow these corporate conglomerates to pressure the FDA into taking the notices off these bags of chips!! If you have questions or need further information about my experience, please contact me at (415)391-7421.

Sincerely,

Carol Bella

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Bella". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "Carol Bella".

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